

# TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MINUTES



September 28, 2022

12:30pm

Virtual Only

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## Call to Order: 12:37pm

### 10. Roll Call

#### Commissioners Present:

Dennie Conrad  
Jay Harland  
Tyler Jasper  
Peggy Penland  
Jared Pulver  
Suzanne Schroeder  
Jason Stranberg

#### Commissioners Absent:

Kim Parducci

#### Councilmembers Present:

#### Staff Present:

John Vial, Public Works Director  
Karl MacNair, Public Works  
Debra Royal, Public Works  
Liz Hamblin, Planning

### 20. Approval of Minutes from July 27, 2022

There being no additions or corrects, the minutes were approved as presented.

### 30. Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience

None.

### 40. Action Items

None.

**50. Discussion Items**

**50.1 Six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update**

Mr. MacNair re-introduced the CIP to the Commission, which they worked on two years ago. The Council requested that the Commission consider the Spring Street project. Mr. MacNair shared that this is a good project, however it did not make the final cut two years ago.

Mr. MacNair asked commissioners to submit their top three projects to staff by October 17. These lists will be a starting point for discussion at the October 26 meeting. Mr. MacNair provided background documents to assist the commissioners in developing their top three lists.

Mr. Vial and Mr. MacNair answered a few process questions on how the commissioners were to go about making their lists. Mr. MacNair will email the commissioners a link to the TSP.

Commissioner Pulver asked about how the restriping of McAndrews Road was related to Council's request for them to look at the Spring Street project. Mr. Vial shared that the restriping was taking place today and some councilors were concerned about traffic diverting to Spring Street as a result of the restriping. Public Works does not necessarily agree that a trip diversion will take place, but it may, and Spring Street is currently a substandard street that needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Harland asked what the McAndrews Road Cycle Track project was and if it would remove vehicle lanes. Mr. MacNair explained that the cycle track is planned to be placed behind the curb, out of the roadway, and would not reduce the number of lanes. Mr. Vial said the volume of traffic from Crater Lake Avenue to Biddle Road is much larger than the volume between Springbrook Road to Crater Lake Avenue. Public Works has no intention of removing lanes near the hospital.

Commissioner Schroeder asked staff to describe who the Spring Street project will make safer – pedestrians, cyclists, or motorists. Mr. MacNair described the current condition of Spring Street between Crater Lake Avenue and Springbrook Road. The project will be an “Urban Upgrade” to change it from a county-road section to an urban one with center turn lanes, bike lanes, and sidewalks. Mr. Vial added that in the TSP has a description of each project.

Mr. Vial offered that the BUILD project is going to be advertised tomorrow, and given the current inflation rates, it is unknown what is going to happen to the City's capital improvement program.

Chair Conrad asked what staff is currently seeing with regard to inflation. Mr. Vial shared that over the last year, the Construction Cost Index has approached 16%. However, a county project was

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recently bid with an engineer's estimate of \$8M, and the bid came in at just over \$6M. That is a good sign. More will be known after the BUILD bids are returned in November.

Commissioner Harland asked for an explanation of the Owen Drive Public/Private Partnership. Mr. MacNair said the City has budgeted for this section of roadway, and a design has been completed by the developer. The City is coordinating with the developer so that work is not duplicated. Mr. Vial added the City looks for opportunities to partner with a developers.

#### **60. Commission Remarks and Committee Reports**

Commissioner Schroeder said that BPAC met, but had nothing to report.

Commissioner Jasper said the Parking Committee did not meet, but will meet in October.

Commissioner Penland said that the Traffic Coordinating Committee will be meeting tomorrow and a large audience is expected.

#### **70. Staff Reports**

Mr. MacNair shared that McAndrews Road is being restriped today and that the crosswalks and arrows will be done shortly thereafter.

The Foothill Road BUILD project is going out to bid tomorrow, September 29. It will be posted for five weeks with November 3 as the deadline for bids to be submitted.

Other items that are progressing include, sidewalk projects, residential street lights, Barnett Road Adaptive Project, Safe Schools grants, battery backups for traffic signals, and rebuilding of the Larson Creek Path between Black Oak Drive and Murphy Road.

Public Works is working with ODOT on the Exit 27 IAMP update.

ODOT has selected a consultant for the S. Stage Road overcrossing/interchange study. The scope development will take a few months. The study will commence early next year.

#### **80. Agenda Build**

80.1 South Medford Exit 27 Alternate Mobility Targets

This will be on next month's agenda. ODOT will present an update.

80.2 Main, Riverside, Central Multi-modal Study Update

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This will be on next month's agenda. There will be a presentation of the operations analysis.

### **80.3 Six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update**

Moved to November. October will be an update as BUILD bid results will influence this agenda item.

### **Additional Discussion**

Regarding the ODOT S. Stage study, Commissioner Pulver asked if ultimately this is just modeling for how they will assess what the project should be – an overpass or an interchange. He asked if the study would simply assess how much traffic the project will pull from other areas.

Mr. MacNair said the study will include: traffic modeling; preliminary design concepts for different interchange types; environmental impacts to Bear Creek; noise impacts; impacts to disadvantages communities; alternatives analysis; and planning work. This will move the process to the point to be able to decide what kind of project it will be and allow the City to pursue additional grant funding.

Commissioner Harland asked if the study would produce a Record of Decision (ROD). Mr. Vial said no, that ODOT is not at that point. Commissioner Harland asked if staff would provide at what percentage of the way to a ROD this study would get us.

Mr. Vial said the reason for the study was to identify what can be done to fix the South Medford Interchange. All agree that tweaking the existing interchange is not going to solve the problem. However, ODOT is not going to simply agree to a S. Stage Road interchange or overcrossing. There needs to be an alternatives analysis that will ask what can be done to address the problem. It is probable that they are going to get to S. Stage Road quickly because it is a logical place for a new roadway, but they are approaching this from the standpoint that all possible alternatives need to be looked at. They are not willing to say we are going to go put together NEPA documentation. They need to do some more work themselves before they get to that point.

Chair Conrad asked if there was actually a viable solution in the near future. Mr. Vial said that is a fair question, but he will stop short of predicting what a state agency is willing or not willing to do. Getting to the solution to fix the S. Medford Interchange in the next few years is doable. This is what the City has been and will continue to push for. The City's challenge is that many have decided that a S. Stage overcrossing and an interchange is the answer to the traffic problems in the South Medford area. ODOT is not there yet. They have a process to follow and this study is a big piece of that process. The City is providing \$800K to the study to help get it done, and that will be a major step toward getting an answer as to the long-term solution in the South Medford area. Commissioner Harland asked if the City was able to choose the consultant. Mr. MacNair was on the consultant selection team and there was only one proposal submitted.

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Commissioner Harland asked when the TSP update will come before the Commission. ODOT has proposed IAMP incorporation of a median off of Poplar at Highway 62. For Commissioner Harland, that is a non-starter. Whatever he can do to kill that concept, he will do. Mr. MacNair responded that that will be in October or November. Staff will look at the CIP and Tier One projects in TSP to identify projects that it may be prudent to add based on expected increased SDC fees that are expected to be implemented soon.

Commissioner Harland asked for background on how this ended up in the IAMP and what if any blessing the City has given to the idea. Mr. MacNair said there has been no formal blessing given by the City. It has not been before Council.

Commissioner Stranberg asked for details. Mr. Vial said ODOT's intent is to look at a combination of land use and transportation to be sure their investment in the interchange isn't ruined by changing land uses, etc. They are doing an IAMP for the North Medford interchange exit and there are some projects with which it sounds like Commissioner Harland has concerns.

Mr. Harland shared specific concern that one interim mitigation measure is to create a median at Poplar Drive and Highway 62. This will cause only right turns in and out at Poplar Drive and Bullock Road making it impossible to get from Fred Meyer to the airport without going in a giant circle.

Commissioner Pulver sat in meetings regarding the North Medford IAMP over a year ago and he hopes that the Commission will have input on this. Mr. MacNair said that it has come up in other meetings and the general consensus was this is a bad idea. But ODOT pushed hard to put it into the IAMP. They said they had to have something documented showing they are meeting their future mobility target. Mr. MacNair pushed back on this idea as it will push traffic to other intersections and no study has been conducted to identify those downstream implications. They acknowledged that in their IAMP. At the time, they also said they would do a follow-on study and revisit the idea.

Mr. Vial added it is a project in the IAMP. The City has not adopted it. The City's position is going to be firmly opposed to it and it would be shocking if ODOT took any measures to try to impose. They needed a solution, but it would blow-up a whole lot of other things that they have not studied. The City will have very good arguments as to why it is a really bad idea.

Commissioner Harland asked to be kept informed as to when he will be able to make a motion during a Commission meeting that this idea is bad and to keep it out of the TSP.

**90. Adjournment – 1:30pm**

**Next Meeting – October 26, 2022**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Royal, Public Works